



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Galveston District

# The Sand Castle

*“A newsletter by and for the employees of the Galveston District”*

Volume 20

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

*September 20*  
National Public Lands Day

*September 23*  
Townhall Meeting, including  
Awards Presentation and  
“KISS-A-PIG” contest

*September 24*  
Dredging Conference  
Galveston, Texas

*September 24-26*  
Inland Waterway's User Board  
National Waterway's Conference  
Houston, Texas

*September 29*  
Tejeda Christening  
Southern Area Office

*October 8*  
NASA Safety Day

*October 13*  
HOLIDAY

*October 30*  
Neches Saltwater Barrier  
Ceremony

## District employees back from war front

Mike Flynn, Ed Mason, Pat Lingo and Johnny Roszypal have all recently returned from deployment in Kuwait. Volunteering to be thrown in the middle of a war fed by years of hardship and anger is an impressive feat. Mike, Ed, Pat, and Johnny braved the elements and traveled around the world to serve the Iraqi people and the United States of America.

Lt. Col. Mike Flynn was deployed from February 5 to July 26. He was one of the first officers to arrive in Kuwait. He was primarily located at Camp

Doha and served as the operations officer. His duties included administrative personnel and logistics personnel and reporting the status of the war. He was also responsible for inspection of project sites, oil wells, and oil well fires, inspection of repairs, and assessment of situation at job sites.

There were many challenges facing Flynn. “I was leading the operation center at Camp Doha. Our mission was classified, so we could not discuss it with anyone. We

needed support from the military personnel, but they had no idea why we were there or what we were doing. It caused a lot of communication problems between the military and civilians,” he said.

His days started at 7:00 a.m., and often lasted as long as to 11:00 or 12:00 p.m.. He worked seven days a week. “I finally got a half day off after I had been there for three and a half months,” he said.

“It was very different from my job here as Chief of

See District on page 4 . .



Local community leaders, Corps employees, elected officials, and the public raise their shovels before “digging” in to Packery.

## “We’re Digging It” Packery Channel project begins underway

“We’re Digging It” was the theme, and enthusiasm was in the air as more than 1,000 persons gathered on North Padre Island to celebrate the ground breaking for the Packery Channel Project.

The project, formally known as the North Padre Island Storm Damage Reduction and Restoration Project, will restore beaches, provide additional storm protection and re-open a natural pass, allowing boaters to move between the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

Bids for the construction of the channel and other first phase improvements were received July 9. The contract was awarded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, to low bidder Luhr Brothers/King Fisher, a joint venture group. Luhr is headquartered in

Illinois and King Fisher is at Point Comfort, Texas.

Initial amounts of material to be dredged are 967,500 cubic yards (cy). Approximately 744,000 cy of sand will be placed on the beach during the initial construction of the channel.

This quantity will cover approximately 7,000 feet of beach 220 feet wide in front of the existing seawall.

Maintenance material will be placed on the beach either on the north or south side of the channel, depending upon which beach needs nourishment at the time of maintenance dredging.

The project will include a jettied entrance channel extending 1400 feet into the Gulf of Mexico and a 5,800 lf channel 140 feet wide and 12 feet in depth. The channel from the Highway 361 bridge

See Packery on page 4 . .

## Planning Lead, Nicolle Dailey, is first to complete planning training in district

Nicolle Dailey is the first Galveston District employee to complete all seven Planning Core Curriculum training courses. She finished the week-long Public Involvement and Teaming workshop 1 August in Galveston.

Two planners from Little Rock District, Jonathan Long and Dana Needham-Kirby, also completed the series of seven courses the same day. Dailey is a physical scientist in Planning Section, Planning and Environmental Branch. She is working on two studies where she can immediately apply the public involvement training: the limited reevaluation efforts for Mouth of the Colorado and Sims Bayou recreation. All of the core courses are taught by experienced Corps personnel from various districts and laboratories.

Phyllis Bledsoe, Public Affairs Officer, presented two sessions of the Public Involvement course, Strategic Communication Plans and Dealing with the Media.

The other six courses range from Civil Works Orientation to Hydrology and Hydraulics. The first course in the series was offered in September 2001. This year is the first time the Public Involvement training was held in Southwestern Division.

See Nicolle on page 3 . .



# Commander's Column



Col. Leonard Waterworth



## The Sand Castle

[www.swg.usace.army.mil](http://www.swg.usace.army.mil)

*A newsletter for and by  
the employees of the Galveston  
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Please include an address and phone number on all letters. We reserve the right to edit letters for clarity, style, and space and to use them electronically and in print.

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Success can be measured in many different ways it can be measured at the organizational level in the form of execution rates, as of today our execution in General Investigation is 103%, in Construction General its 115.3% and in Operations and Maintenance its 105.8%. When the execution of our appropriations is well over 100%, that is success... that is doing what we said we were going to do at the beginning of the year. Galveston Engineer District does a great job of using the taxpayer's dollars judiciously meeting the national requirements along the Texas Coast Line.

Success can also be measured in the number of contracts that we execute. In 2001 we executed 85 contracts. In 2002 we executed 86 contracts. In 2003 we executed 74 contracts over the \$50,000 threshold to the tune of \$110,327,829.86. This figure includes 45 formal contracts over \$100,000 and 29 task orders against indefinite delivery type contracts. Awarding this many contracting actions by the end of August is definitely one of the most aggressive if not the most aggressive contracting schedule in Galveston District history. And we still have the whole month of September to go!  
. I believe only a highly performing organization can do what we have done.

These are only two of the many organizational indicators that I track and I have reached the conclusion: Great Districts are made up of Great People doing Great Works.

Each and everyone on Team Galveston helped make these numbers happen. Regardless of where you sit or what you do, it is through your efforts that Galveston Engineer District, in my opinion, is the most efficient district in USACE. If you don't believe me compare the number of dollars spent in each district divided by the number of employees working civil works projects. I have done the analysis to find that we are doing a great job. Galveston Engineer District is a small district (399 federal employees) executing big contracts (over \$200M/year) in support of local and Federal infrastructure/environmental requirements along the Texas coastline. In fact I will propose to you that Galveston Engineer District might be the role model on what most engineer districts should look like.

Our organizational success is built on a foundation of individuals, doing the very best they can and doing more then is required.

Success can also be measured at the individual level and the number of individual accomplishments in the district amazing. Whether its Nicolle Dailey completing the Planning core curriculum training (she is the first one in the district to do so), the Federal Woman's Program celebrating Women's Equality Day, to successful blood drives. Or how much money we brought in for the recreation committee by kissing a pig...we have people being successful, contributing every day. We will celebrate individual success at our town hall meeting scheduled for the end of September.

Congratulations to Captain Sean Jones. On Sept. 3, Capt. Jones made the list of captains who are now promotable. In a year or less we should see him pin on gold oak leafs becoming a major in the Army.

## HQ: Update on USACE 2012

The latest version of the draft USACE 2012: The Objective Organization is now available at <http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/stakeholders/>. As you know, we have gone through an extensive process to get to this point, and we are very close to finalizing a plan. I have also made a video that explains the plan and my view of its importance to our future. Your leaders will be making that available for you to view soon.

Let me review a little background. After the release of the draft in late July, I asked my senior leaders to provide comments on the plan. I heard those comments at the Senior Leader's Conference in Portland in early August. After hearing the comments, I gave the Process Committee some additional guidance and have been personally involved in the development of the plan that is contained in this report. This plan is based on a number of key concepts.

- ☐ I believe we must strengthen the **Regional Business Centers** if we are to provide effective and efficient service to our customers, partners and the American people. I directed that the Regional Business Center be made the focus of our operational model.
- ☐ If we are to maintain our technical excellence, we must embrace the concept of **Communities of Practice** and begin living the **learning organization**.
- ☐ If we are to become one Corps we must focus on providing the **strategic** vision and planning at the Washington level, focus **regional** operations and management in the division and **regionalize support** so that the districts can focus on **executing** their work.
- ☐ We must learn to rely on each other to accomplish our missions. We must become a **team of teams**.

This version of USACE 2012: The Objective Organization is much more in alignment with my ideas of where the Corps must go in the future, but the plan is not finished yet. I urge you to read the draft, and provide any comments throughout the web site. I will be looking at these before we finalize the plan and begin implementing in October.

As you look at this draft plan, I would like you to think about how we build the optimum organization, not how we make any one function better.

- ☐ USACE 2012 is not about the Corps, it is about serving our stakeholders, customers, partners and ultimately the American people better.
- ☐ USACE 2012 is not about a structure, it is about the style in which we will serve the American people.
- ☐ USACE 2012 is not about the leadership today, it is about the legacy of success we are going to leave in this organization for the future.

I appreciate all of the support and trust you have given me in my tenure as the Chief of Engineers. I have tremendous confidence in you and the work you do every day for the nation.  
Bob Flowers



Lt. Gen. Bob Flowers



# Colorado River Locks face new alternative for dam

A new alternative may turn out to be the best alternative for the diverse problems at the Colorado River Locks according to new modeling done by the Corps of Engineers' Engineering Research and Development Center in Vicksburg.

The diversion dam cut alternative, proposed by state and Federal natural resource agencies, has moved into a favored position and calls for a small channel cut across the diversion dam from the Colorado River to the navigation channel.

Environmental and safety benefits come with this alternative that aren't available with the Parkers Cut or Southwest Cut alternatives. The different options were discussed at a meeting held recently with Corps officials, county representatives, the Port of Bay City and other representatives of elected officials in attendance.

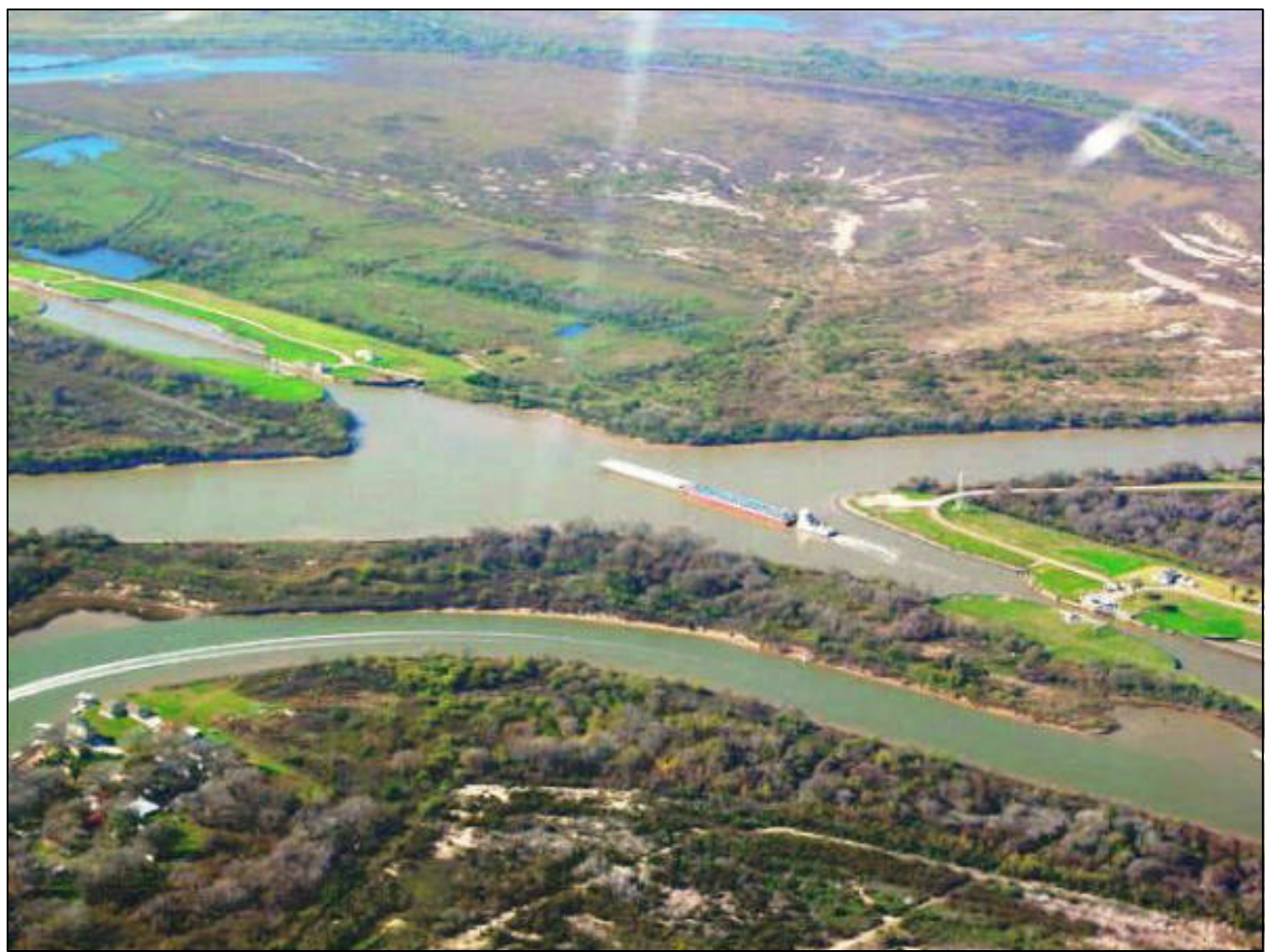
Mike Griffith, chairman of the Port of Bay City Authority, and George Deshotels, Matagorda County Commissioner, were instrumental in developing community interest in the project and have worked with the Corps for approximately the past five years in pursuit of the taxpayer's interest in modifying the diversion project.

"The diversion dam cut appears to be better for the Corps' purposes than Parkers Cut or the Southwest Cut alternatives," said Col. Leonard Waterworth, district engineer of the Galveston District. "Our purpose is to make the Colorado River Locks more efficient and safer while providing economic prosperity and environmental sustainability. This cut seems to satisfy those requirements in addition to providing benefits to the community."

The Corps has finished the preliminary screening of several options for the Colorado River Locks area and has put together preliminary benefits-to-costs ratios that focus mainly on the modeling results and currents conditions. The cost/benefit ratios are only indicators at this time and are not complete.

After looking at the current results, opinion has swung from the popular Parkers Cut and Southwest Cut options to favor the small cut thru the diversion dam.

A fifty-foot cut would allow small boat traffic to by-pass the locks, adding a safety factor and alleviating delays to barge traffic



Colorado River Locks.

as they would no longer have to wait for the small boats to pass thru the locks.

The cut at the diversion dam is more practical than Parkers Cut as it is closer to Matagorda Harbor and boat launches along the river channel.

The diversion dam cut modeled, although smaller than would be necessary to allow small boat passage, showed no detrimental impacts to Matagorda Bay with respect to salinity change, sediment transport or delta development. It does provide extra safety at the locks.

The Colorado River Diversion Channel was designed to put fresh water into the bay providing environmental enhancement for Matagorda Bay.

In 1995, the 300 acres of delta and marsh at the mouth of the diversion was projected to grow to 600 acres by 2000 and is right on track. It's goal of improving the environment of the bay is being realized and no changes are desired.

While proposals for opening Parkers Cut and/or Southwest Cut are popular among the local population, the Corps study found that opening Parkers Cut would be negative for oyster production and would slow the rate of delta development from 2 to 5 percent, depending upon river flow. The study also showed that opening Parkers Cut would have a tendency to entrain coastal sediments, moving them up the river and into Matagorda Bay. Therefore, additional maintenance dredging

and disposal would be required to keep the old river channel and Parkers Cut open. With Parkers Cut open, Matagorda Bay would become more saline and therefore, less fertile.

Southwest Cut was considered by the Corps for the purpose of providing water exchange between East Matagorda Bay and the Colorado River to improve the biological productivity of East Matagorda Bay. However, no environmental problems have been demonstrated in East Matagorda Bay

and no concerns have been voiced by any natural resource agency.

The Corps focus is on navigation interests at the intersection of the Colorado River and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway including the safety issues connected with increased traffic in the locks.

Any additional modeling of alternatives would delay any action an additional three months, according to Nicolle Dailey, Corps planning lead in the project.

Nicolle continued from page 1 . .



Nicolle Dailey receives certificate.

The Planning Core Curriculum courses resulted from the Planning Excellence Program launched in 2000 to rebuild Corps planning capability because 10 years of downsizing had resulted in few planners with between 5 and 10 years of experience.

Currently 30 percent of Corps planners have been on the job less than 3 years. The core curriculum is recommended for all members of planning project delivery

teams, not just planners.

Next year three courses will be offered: Introduction to Planning in January, Plan Formulation in March, both in Dallas, and Planning Principles and Procedures in May in Galveston.

Forty-one Galveston district members have taken one core course, three have taken five courses, and four have taken four courses each to date.





Ed Mason, Pat Lingo, and Lt. Col. Mike Flynn.

Security. I had numerous tasks that had nothing at all to do with security. I had to change my way of thinking to deal with the stress level and daily working habits. Everything was streamlined, you simply did not fail, and you completed the tasks no matter what.”

Being a military officer and arriving at such a critical time, Flynn did not get the opportunity to do any sight-seeing or meet any local people. He primarily worked with military and civilian contractors. Reconnaissance missions, driving back and forth through Iraq, visiting sites to see results of inspections, attending daily war plans meetings and coordinating with the Southwestern Division took every moment of his time.

“Military personnel did not get many privileges. Off Post travel was reserved only for official missions involving military personnel. Military personnel are still required to live in the barracks on-post. The civilians have the option of better accommodations and live in very nice apartments in Kuwait City.”

This was a challenging assignment for Flynn. He was one of the first ones to see the oil wells, and was there while the war was going on, seeing it first hand. Troops, tanks, and destruction surrounded him; not to mention missiles being fired at Camp Doha. “It was interesting, yet not exactly fun,” said Flynn.

Working closely with Mike was Ed Mason. He was the first to be deployed, leaving on February 2, 2003. His duties

were communications support/emergency management. He was responsible for preparation of phones, computers, and satellite telephones. Upon his arrival his most daunting task was to set up a network.

“It was hard to be the first ones. When we arrived there were five tables, three chairs, five laptops, no telephones and 3 satellite phones that worked on occasion. It took two weeks for supplies to arrive. It was very challenging with no supplies to establish an office,” said Mason.

The first two months were 18-hour work days, sometimes 20 to 24 hours. It was extremely stressful.

The first month the team constantly had to be aware of the danger of scud missiles; the war was going strong and after. In the event of an alert: everyone had to immediately drop what

he or she were doing and suit up.

“These went on top of your uniform. They consisted of a gasmask, rubber-like material jumpsuit, boots, and a hood that covered everything but our eyes. All you could do was sit there and sweat until the okay was given. The only way you had any water was if you were savvy enough to fill up your canteens everyday because the masks only allowed for a small straw,” said Mason.

“Not only were the suits uncomfortable, it was extremely nerve racking having missile alerts. While I was there, 26 alarms were sounded and out of those 9 missiles came towards Camp Doha,” explained Mason.

The office building they were provided had some problems. Workers were in the process of changing the air conditioning units. Not only

was it unbearably hot, there were also large holes in the sides of the walls. Frequent sandstorms meant sometimes reporting to work to find a layer of sand covering everything.

Pat Lingo served as Brig.Gen. Kreer’s administrative support. She was deployed on April 24. One of the hardest things for Pat was the stressful living and working conditions

“We were civilians on a military base with a classified mission. People on base would not help us because we could not explain why we needed what we needed. As soon as clearance came and communication was established, everything went more smoothly.”

One of Pat’s responsibilities was driving shooters. Any time someone left the base, they had to take two soldiers with weapons, shooters. She drove the vehicles all over the country and to many oil refineries. She had the opportunity to go to the city and meet local people.

“The culture there is very interesting, but different. It was fascinating to see the change in the local people’s attitudes the longer we were there. The men think they should have as many children as possible because they will go make money and take care of their parents. Most of the women were very nice, but there were some who hate American women.”

“We laughed a lot. Humor was how we got by. We all became friends and made the most of the situation. We had a mental health day got pizza and tried to relax.”

District continued on next page...



Johnny Roszypal



### District continued...

Deployed on July 19, Johnny Roszypal was stationed at Camp Commando, a marine base in southern Iraq. He was the Southern Area Engineer, monitoring contractors, interface in with Iraqis, inspecting repairs and restoring oil pipelines, water sources and refineries. His goal was to accomplish pre-war oil production.

There were many difficult aspects of Roszypal's duties. A large part of the problem was the extensive looting. The people in southern Iraq are very poor. When the infrastructure failed, they stole everything of value or that they could use and destroyed the rest. From work trucks to electrical copper wires to tearing metal sheets off buildings to build themselves a home, they took everything they could carry. It only added to the difficult working conditions.

"Many times we would have to fix more than what was damaged simply because the pipelines, equipment, and parts are 30-40 years old. The pipes were sometimes a mixture of materials from all over the world, which made it very difficult to repair, and parts were hard to find. The technology was obsolete. We saw a lot of things common in old industry in the United States. We are decades ahead of them in innovation and technology," said Roszypal.

Another difficult situation that added to the harsh working conditions was the fact that the offices were very spread. They had to drive two hours in and out to the job site everyday. Camp Commando was not only two hours away from the oil wells; they were 25 miles away from contractors.

"Communication was very unstable. We provided the Iraqis with satellite phones, but they very rarely answered them. I had to drive out to the job sites and physically find them," explained Roszypal, "The worst part was all the driving."

Johnny Roszypal's trip to Kuwait was shortened however. His wife fell ill and he rushed home to be with her. However, he had time to successfully regain control of oil well fires, saw production of Iraqi oil climbing back to pre war numbers, and made a difference in the efforts of the Rio team.

"My most memorable situation was getting to see my son. I finally got to communicate with him through



email and found that he was only about 15 miles away. I drove down to see him and we sat and talked. The next day I was on a plane home to take care of my wife. He will be in Iraq until the end of September," said Johnny.

Mike, Ed, Pat and Johnny all volunteered to go to Iraq and serve the United States and the Corps of Engineers. Four people all with different job descriptions and responsibilities all worked for one common goal. They all dealt with harsh living conditions whether they be tents or barracks. They all missed their friends and family at home. They all converted into the military lifestyle, learned to handle the stress of wartime, and battled the heat of the Middle East. Working at least 18 hours a day, seven days a week, the deployed fought to regain control and restore Iraqi oil.

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*Above: Johnny Roszypal with his son, who he was able to visit before heading home. His son will be home in September.*

*Middle: Lt. Col. Mike Flynn working through a scud alert. He was one of the first ones to see the oil wells, and was there while the war was going on. Troops, tanks, and destruction surrounded him; not to mention missiles being fired at Camp Doha.*

*Bottom: Ed Mason. Ed's main responsibilities was communication support and emergency management. When he arrived there were five tables, three chairs, five laptops, no telephones and 3 satellite phones that worked on occasion. It took two weeks for supplies to arrive.*





# Section 211 projects: *A new way of business*

Galveston District is currently working with Harris County Flood Control District to reduce flood damages in the Houston area. This time the county is calling the shots and the Corps is simply serving as an adviser and guide.

“The 211 projects originated in 1996. Currently, all the projects are located in Harris County. To date there are three ongoing projects: White Oak, Hunting, and Brays, which is segmented into upper Brays and lower Brays. Buffalo Bayou is to be added,” said Rick Villagomez, former Project Manager. Project Management duties were recently passed to Dennis Thomas.

### What makes it possible?

Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 authorized non-federal interests to undertake a feasibility study of a proposed harbor or inland harbor project. In other words, if approved, non-federal interests are allowed to conduct studies on federal project. This is the first step towards the development of a new way of doing business for the Corps.

It provides regulations for a study, general requirements for a report to be submitted, documentation, and process for approval for projects that a non-Federal organization wishes to implement.

Section 211 of the Digest of Water Resources Policies and Authorities allows a non-federal entity to undertake the design and construction of federally authorized flood control projects without federal funding, and to be eligible to be reimbursed an amount equal to the estimate of the federal share, without interest (or inflation), of the design and construction cost of the project or separable element thereof.

### How does the process work?

First, the non-Federal organization must be states, political subdivisions, or other agencies legally constituted and financially capable, with full legal authority to complete requirements and terms of an agreement with the Corps. Next, the area to be studied must be an approved site. Following the study, the proposed project must be submitted to the Secretary of the Army; and the Assistant Secretary of the Army will then submit it to the necessary governing bodies for approval.

“Any non-federal organization interested in conducting a project of this nature must complete the same process and regulations that the Corps must follow. We simply serve in an oversight and coordination role,” said Villagomez.

### What is the status of the projects?

Currently Harris County Flood Control District, or HCFCFCD, is working with the Corps to meet the common goal of reducing the flood risks in the Houston area. To date they are concentrating on Upper Brays Bayou, which is now under construction.

“We meet the same rules and regulations, and follow the same cost sharing and local sponsor requirements as any other federal Corps project,” said Steve Fitzgerald, Chief Engineer, HCFCFCD, “The main difference is that the local sponsor leads in plan, design and construction of the project.”

### Why would any non-Federal body want to take on such a responsibility?

The 211 projects are still a young idea. Harris County is the only non-federal entity to implement these acts. The 211

projects rules gives the Corps partner a chance to have a voice in what happens in it’s area. Harris County then has the freedom to organize and construct projects, with Corps guidance.

“In the case of the ongoing projects in Harris County, they all had existing federal plans for improvements. Harris County did not like the proposals and revised them to meet what they thought were their needs and plans,” explained Villagomez, “The 211 projects provide a quicker, cheaper, faster solution to the flooding problems in Houston.

“The flood control district only works within Harris County while Galveston District deals with a much larger area. By combining our efforts, more projects have an opportunity to make their way to construction. 211 legislation has doubled the number of flood control projects in Harris County,” said Wayne Crull, project manager for the 211 projects at HCFCFCD.

### Is the system working?

“There have been no draw backs as a result of the 211 legislation, but there has definitely been a learning curve,” said Crull. The Corps follows a finely tuned system for

executing the process of constructing projects.

“Harris County now realizes that is not always the Corps holding up the projects. There is a process and it can get political, especially when they are working directly with the elected officials,” said Villagomez.

“The 211(f) legislation allows the local sponsor to begin construction before approval. This is at our own risk however,” said Fitzgerald, “Our main goal with these projects is to serve our customers. We hope to finish the projects sooner and spend less money while providing better protection faster.”

### What happens when the project is completed?

“Working as the local lead increased the capabilities of our partnership, allowing projects to get on the ground sooner. The planned date for completion of the upper Brays project is in the year of 2008,” said Fitzgerald.

The 211 projects benefit the Corps, Harris County, and most importantly the people who live in and around Houston. Saving federal money in the long run and allowing a partner control of projects in its area is a win-win situation.

## District does emergency dredging

Not all Corps projects go through a long planning process that involve extensive meetings with sponsors, public notices and meetings, or stacks of paper work. There are a few projects that need to occur as an emergency scenario. Emergency Dredging (ED) is a short-term fix to a potential long-term problem. It is in response to shoals, which builds high areas in the channels the Corps maintains cause operators to ground or skim the bottom.

There are usually two scenarios of ED. The first is condition surveying that occurs every six months at some locations. Other areas are typically worked on every nine to twelve months.

For example, Rollover Pass, on Bolivar Peninsula, is dredged every nine months to a year because of the constant currents from the Gulf into the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway.

However, sometimes these areas need to be done more frequently. Local operators will notify the Corps if their



*Silt wing is used in some areas for emergency dredging.*

equipment grounds or hits bottom. In these situations the Corps must respond by examining the complaint and react instantly if needed.

There are certain hot spots, high shoal rate, areas that usually give problems. These locations are notorious and the Corps monitors them carefully.

The other main scenario involves the weather. Hurricanes and storm are a significant basis for ED. “Hurricanes are a major cause,” said Joe Hrametz,

navigation branch, “Matagorda Towers have to be done every November thru January because of currents and wind.”

If the locations that need ED are close to or in a current Corps project the Corps can add them to that existing project. If it is not, then it is considered out-of-scope work and has to be advertised on a fast-track. Meaning that since it is an emergency it different

**See ED on page 10 . .**



# Students take to the seas for discovery

*Eleven-year-old Pearland girl makes voyage with classmates to island she named*

Christopher Columbus, Ferdinand Magellan, Lewis and Clark – and now 11-year-old Ally Levy – have made their mark on the map. Levy, a Pearland resident, won an island-naming contest for Houston-Galveston area elementary school students nearly two years ago. Today, she and fellow classmates embarked on an adventure in Galveston Bay to see for the first time the protected bird habitat she named. The Port of Houston Authority (PHA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and Beneficial Uses Group (BUG), who worked together to create the island and host the naming contest, sponsored the fieldtrip to Evia Island.

“When I found out that the Spanish explorer Jose de Evia really discovered Galveston Island but named it after his boss, Bernardo de Galvez, I thought Evia should get some credit,” said Levy. “Science is my favorite subject in school, so I am very excited to see the island and all of the birds. I’m glad they have a safe home there.”

The PHA, Corps and BUG constructed the six-acre island using material dredged from the Houston-Galveston Navigation Channels (HGNC) expansion project.

Since its creation in 2000, Evia Island has served as protected nesting habitat for as many as 3,000 shore birds per



*Ally Levy (holding microphone) and fellow classmates pose with Port of Houston Authority members, Beneficial Uses Group members and US Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District.*

season, including royal terns, sandwich terns, black skimmers and the federally listed endangered brown pelican. While the island offers a significant increase in safe habitat for nesting birds, it represents a small portion of the environmental enhancements that the PHA, Corps and BUG are making in Galveston Bay during the next 50 years.

“The Port, Corps and BUG will create nearly 4,500 acres of environmental improvements in the Bay during the next 50 years. Being able to

share early successes with these children and generate excitement about wildlife conservation is extremely rewarding,” said BUG Chairman Dick Gorini. “Most of these children will have grandchildren by the time this project is completed. We hope that Evia Island generates as much excitement for their grandchildren as it does for them today.”

Biologists, engineers and environmental experts were aboard the vessel to give presentations on marsh restoration and the environment.

In addition to Evia Island, the PHA, Corps and BUG are currently working to create: 4,250 acres of intertidal wetland habitat; an offshore underwater berm to attract fish; access channels and anchorages for recreational boaters; and 172 acres of oyster reefs. The group has already partially restored Redfish Island and is currently working to restore Goat Island. Both islands subsided due to erosion in the past few decades.

## Study to occur in Galveston county canals

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has approved a Municipal Utility District No. 12 proposal to conduct a preliminary engineering and design study to dredge some of the canals in Bayou Vista, Old Bayou Vista and Omega Bay.

The dredging will correct silting that has occurred at the entrances to those canals.

When the engineering study and design proposal is complete, it will be presented to the district’s board of directors for approval. If it is approved, the district would agree to pay a third of the cost of the project, from the design phase through completion. The utility district’s portion of the funding for the project will come from a 7-cent tax increase approved last year by residents.

## King Fisher honored at GICA convention

King Fisher, a longtime friend and contractor of Galveston District, was honored at the annual convention of the Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association, August 20-22 in New Orleans, LA. The 3-day meeting was dedicated to King Fisher, in recognition of his lifelong contributions to the marine industry along the Gulf Coast.

The event began with a golf tournament, which two teams with Corps employees placed. Simon DeSoto, lockmaster of the Colorado River Locks, placed 2nd and Lizette Richardson, project manager, placed 3rd.

Fisher was the guest of honor at the convention’s opening reception Wednesday, August 20. Other honorees included Capt. Jeffery Jewell, recipient of the association’s Dale Miller

Award for heroism on the waterway. Jewell is credited with saving the lives of as many as 15 people in the Victoria Barge Canal when Hurricane Claudette struck the area on July 15, 2003. Five vessels sunk in the canal during the storm. Leroy Goodson and Mike Campbell both received life member status for their contributions to the association.

The convention continued Thursday and Friday with presentations from Valsin Marmillion representing America’s Wetlands; Chris Johnsen representing Waterways Work!; and attorneys Matt



*Col. Waterworth gives presentation at GICA.*

Woodruff and Jim Blackburn discussing the industrial versus environmental concerns of the waterway.

Capt. Alistair Macnab presented information on the Port of Houston MAPS System, and representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Coast Guard spoke to issues within their respective districts.



# FWP: District celebrates Women's Equality Day

The Federal Women's Program held a brown bag lunch Aug. 26, to celebrate Women's Equality Day commemorating women winning the right to vote in the United States. Diana Laird, planning section chief was the keynote speaker.

Women's Equality Day marks the anniversary of women's enfranchisement and a pivotal victory for women's rights. The nation recognized a woman's right to vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, but the roots of the women's rights movement go back to at least 80 years earlier.

In 1840, Elizabeth Cady Stanton met Lucretia Mott at the World's Anti-Slavery Convention in London. They, along with the other women there, expected to join in the anti-slavery proceedings, but male delegates refused to allow them to participate. Thus rebuffed, Mott and Stanton began a journey that would lead to the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention. There, the Declaration of Rights and



Col. Waterworth with Jackie Adenkanbi, Demetrice Jones, keynote speaker, Diana Laird, Rose Caballero and Lizette Richardson.

Sentiments called for women's equality, including the right to vote and to take part in our Nation's great moral debates.

Nearly all women's rights advocates also fought for the abolition of slavery. One hundred and fifty years ago, anti-slavery suffragette Sojourner Truth gave a powerful address expounding on the strength of women. Her impassioned call for women to actively participate in social

justice movements became a legendary link between abolition and suffrage. That same year, Susan B. Anthony met Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and they later joined Harriet Tubman, Mary Ann Shad Cary, and other abolitionists to pursue the goal of women's suffrage. Many 19th Century abolitionist suffragettes did not live to see the fruit of their work for women's enfranchisement, but their efforts led the way for women to

fight for and win recognition of their rights as equal participants in our Republic.

Today, thousands of people, mainly women and children, are trafficked into the United States each year and forced to work in the sex industry, sweatshops, field labor, and domestic servitude. Beyond these acts, workplace discrimination and targeted violence continue to take place, despite their rejection by American communities and legal system.

As the well-known champions of women's equality are remembered, the millions of women whose private efforts and personal ideals continue to sustain and improve this land are also honored. On Women's Equality Day, all Americans are called upon to defend the freedoms gained by those who came before and to continue to expand the shared vision of social justice and equality.

## Making Jadwin look new again PAO redesigns walls to update building



The redesign wall on the ground floor now features the chain of command, the different Galveston district homes, and Corps timeline.

Have you noticed anything different about the walls recently? If not, go take a look.

The current wall displays have been in place for 12 years, and are becoming dull and outdated.

Col. Waterworth put the revamping project in motion, asking the Public Affairs office to update and redesign the walls throughout the building.

The goals are to show employees and visitors what we have done, are doing and will do for the district.

PAO is currently working on the third floor, which will display active projects.

If you have any questions or comments pertaining to design contact Colleen Martin or Ashley Jones in Public Affairs.

Please contact Logistics with comments referring to installation, maintenance, or walls, and please excuse our mess for the next few weeks.

## LDP: Organizational Leadership for Executives - Better known as O-L-E or OLE

by Sharon Tirpak, LDP member

Most of you probably have heard of this course and some have taken it. This is one of the more talked about Army training courses, however, not much information on the content of the course is ever discussed. There seems to be some shroud of secrecy about what actually happens in this course. All you hear is that the course is different than any other you have ever taken, that people have been known to cry (including men), that the course breaks you down to build you up. Well, after hearing all that and you are scheduled for the course, it is only natural to be a bit apprehensive and anxious when you are landing in Kansas City, MO the day the course is scheduled to start, as I was in mid July. I was thinking, what am I getting into? I hope this course is worth it and not too uncomfortable for me. However, I went in with an open mind, ready to experience O-L-E and to learn.

The official course description for O-L-E is: to explain and demonstrate the leadership skills and competencies required to perform at the executive level. The objective of O-L-E is to develop leaders with skills to conduct an organizational assessment; communicate influentially; establish an effective organizational climate; manage organizational change; develop an organization strategic plan; diagnose their own personal effectiveness; and build high-performing teams.

Did I learn all that? Yes, probably, and a whole lot more. Was the course different than others I have taken? Yes and no. It is not anything like a Prospect course, where you go and learn a lot of technical information. It is more similar to LEAD, but you go further into processes and learning about yourself than LEAD takes you. Did anyone cry? Yes, but not because of being broken down (in this case the person was mentioning the recent loss of a spouse). Does the course break you down to build you up? I would answer no to this. Yes the learning activities make you spend a great deal of time outside your comfort zone. However, you learn about yourself and you learn about others. If you go in with an open mind, a willingness to share and take risks you will truly gain from this course. Of all of the training I have received in my nine years with the Corps, I believe I will benefit from O-L-E more than any other. Why? The knowledge I gained about myself; how I perceive others and how others perceive me; and how different people are but also how the same we are, will be very valuable to me both professionally and personally for a long time to come. So, as I left Kansas City at the end of the two-week training session, I left knowing that I have a much better understanding of myself, hopefully a better understanding of others, and yes the course at times did make me feel uncomfortable. However, that "out of your comfort zone" was essential for learning and it was not as bad as I expected. Also, I made some new friends and contacts, some of which I will stay in touch with and hopefully see again. I now understand why those who take O-L-E don't really talk about the course content with others. No there is no oath of secrecy. Divulging all of the course content would spoil the "O-L-E experience" and everyone needs to experience O-L-E for themselves.

If you are interested in taking O-L-E please discuss it with your supervisor. The course is meant for persons at the GS-12 and higher levels. Information on the course and course schedules can be found at [www.cpol.army.mil](http://www.cpol.army.mil), under ACTEDS training.



# The results are in.. you do like us!

The Public Affairs Office distributed a survey to Corps employees, retirees, and interest groups to receive comments and suggestions on its monthly newsletter, *The Sand Castle*. The results to the office were not surprising! Over 75 surveys were returned.

The majority of responses from Corps employees were positive, such as “Keep up the good work” and “ great job.” Several commented on preferring the hard copy to the online version of the newsletter – “ The online one was too hard to read,” said a Galveston district employee, “I hated it! Now with the hard copy back, I can take it home and read it.”

Suggestions that were made mostly concerned the content of the newsletter. Employees recommended bringing back the “Spotlight” column, having a crossword puzzle or word search, more emphasis on the Corps committees (FWP, BEP, HEP), and discussing how all of the district affects a project.

Retirees, who voiced their opinion (43 surveys returned), emphasized the importance of the newsletter being mailed and how it keeps them in touch with their “Corps family.”

“ As a district engineer, I had a strong belief that newsletter was a real morale enhancer; now as a retiree, I find it interesting, informative and about my only source on what is going on with the district,” said a Corps retiree.

## FAQ's on the *Sand Castle*

### How do I submit something to the *Sand Castle*?

E-mailing is really the best option. Word documents are ideal!

### When can I submit things to the newsletter?

Our deadline is the first week of the month you'd like in it. For example if you'd like a story in Decembers paper please have it in by the first week in December.

### Who can submit articles?

ANYONE! All articles are edited before being placed into the paper.

### Who do I submit stories to?

Michele C. Thomas or Ashley Jones

### In the News

#### ACROSS

5 We must provide what kind of vision?  
6 Public meeting on September 11 (two words)  
7 Planning Lead who has completed all seven courses (last name)  
10 Safety Day is where  
11 We must become a (3 words)  
13 Packery Channel theme (3 words)  
14 The two planners for the Planning Fore Curriculum training were from what District? (2 words)

#### DOWN

1 We must strengthen them if we are to provide service (3 words)  
2 Name of the boat at this months christening  
3 What faces a new alternative cut at a dam (acronym)  
4 Location of this year GICA Conference (2 words)  
8 Ribbon cutting held August 26 (2 words)  
9 Contest being held by the Recreation Committee  
12 This meeting is scheduled once a month

to the Intracoastal Waterway is 80 feet wide and 7 feet deep, 12,700 lf in length.

The project also includes creation of submerged grass areas at Shamrock Island, a rookery area in the Laguna Madre. This mitigation will be accomplished through the Coastal Bend and Estuaries Program in cooperation with the Natural Conservancy and the Texas General Land Office.

The groundbreaking ceremony is the result of years of effort by project supporters.

Packery Channel, originally known as Corpus Christi Pass, was the tidal inlet serving Corpus Christi Bay and the Laguna Madre as early as 1859. After dredging of the Corpus Christi Ship Channel in 1923, the pass closed and has been open only intermittently after large storms.

Work on the \$21.3 million contract should begin within 30 days.



Herbie Maurer, chief of programs and project management and deputy district engineer, speaks at Packery groundbreaking.



Waiting for the big day.



Wellness:

Why you should watch the ozone levels

by Cynthia Burke

A couple of Sunday’s ago Ronnie Barcak, Operations Division, was getting ready to go to Church when suddenly he was hit with an intense sharp pain in his upper right chest. He said the pain was severe – it almost knocked him down and he almost passed out. After a couple of minutes, though, the pain receded, and he thought he might go on to Church. His wife thought not. Chest pain, she reasoned, is not something to be dismissed. Ronnie also started to experience tingling and loss of strength in his arms, especially his right arm. They went to the emergency room, and since his main complaint was chest pain, Ronnie was admitted and several diagnostic tests were run to check his heart. All test results were normal. Ronnie didn’t have heart disease. The doctor said he was suffering from pleurisy.

Pleurisy is chest pain associated with inflammation of the pleura, or tissues lining the lungs. The hallmark of pleurisy is severe chest pain that starts suddenly. The pain is often strong or stabbing when you take a deep breath. It usually subsides or disappears between

breaths. Typically, you will be able to point to the exact location of the pain. This was exactly what Ronnie was experiencing.

**What caused it?** It turns out that on the Friday and Saturday (August 8 & 9) preceding his symptoms, Ronnie had been working hard outdoors clearing land. The doctor told him that he had chosen a bad day to work out of doors, and had he been listening to the news, he would have known that the air quality index (AQI) for Friday was 166 ppb, or “Very Unhealthy” for ozone.

The doctor said that since he was working hard, he was breathing unhealthy air deep into his lungs, so much so, that he experienced the sharp pain of pleurisy.

Ronnie is a young, strong, healthy man. While he was working, he was drinking lots of water and feeling great. Still, simply by working hard on the wrong day, he experienced serious pain that put him out of commission for about a week.

The emergency room doctor prescribed an anti-inflammatory and instructed Ronnie to make a

KISS ME!!!

Voting begins September 8th!

Every vote is a \$1 with proceeds going to the Rec Committee

Let’s make the next holiday party a hit, help support us!

Come out and watch your nominee Kiss-A-Pig at the next townhall on Sept. 23!

follow-up appointment with his personal physician. Ronnie was trying to live his life as he normally does, but his personal physician instructed him to stay home for the next few days and stay in bed. For about a week, he was still hurting when he inhaled. With bed rest, the symptoms decreased, and he’s almost back to normal by now.

The moral of the story is to pay attention to daily ozone levels in your planning for outdoor activity. You can listen

for the information on TV and radio news, or you can check the following link.

[http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/cgi-bin/monops/ozone\\_actionday](http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/cgi-bin/monops/ozone_actionday)

If something this severe can affect someone who is in very good health, what about those of us who have health issues?

If you want more information on pleurisy, go to [www.healthsquare.com](http://www.healthsquare.com) or [www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com).

Castle Comments

Light the candles



Luis Rodriguez	Sept. 1
Glenn Weitknecht	Sept. 1
Lilli Terry	Sept. 4
Grace Procter	Sept. 4
Charles Holder	Sept. 5
Phil Coughlin	Sept. 5
Don Hester	Sept. 5
Andrea Catanzaro	Sept. 5
Etta Mynczywor	Sept. 5
Stacey Mullen	Sept. 6
Paul Sandoval	Sept. 6
Sharon Lamkins	Sept. 6
Deborah Clark	Sept. 6
Cheryl Jaynes	Sept. 7
Luis Saenz	Sept. 9
Reggie Thomas	Sept. 9
Genevieve Trdla	Sept. 10
Bill Hopkins	Sept. 12
Daniel Williams	Sept. 12
John Gaskin	Sept. 14
Fred Requenez	Sept. 15
Chris Rossi	Sept. 15
Bob Behrens	Sept. 15
George Dabney	Sept. 16
Francis Hodges	Sept. 18
Natalie Rund	Sept. 18
Tom Benero	Sept. 18
Carlton Brown	Sept. 19
Joy Smith	Sept. 21
Arthur Janecka	Sept. 22
Chris Wrbas	Sept. 24

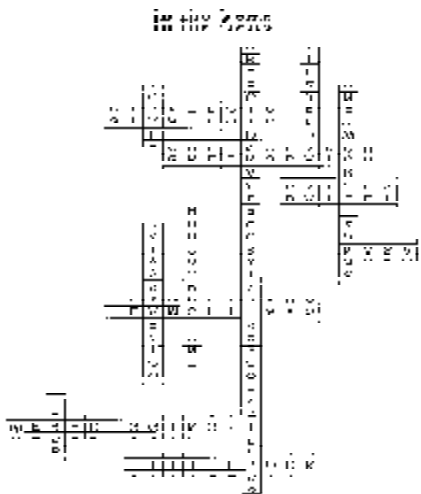
Norma Garcia	Sept. 24
John Bember	Sept. 24
Wayne Dunham	Sept. 24
Charles Stimmel	Sept. 24
Gilbert Trevino	Sept. 25
David Orr	Sept. 27
Sandra Welborn	Sept. 28
Michael Hinton	Sept. 28
Nicole Minnichbach	Sept. 29

Wedding bells

Congratulations to Michele Castelline, public affairs office, and Rob Thomas, planning, who were married on August 16, 2003 in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Crossword Answers



Get Well Soon

Johnny Rozsypal’s ( wife, Jane, had emergency open heart surgery. She’s is doing fine and expected to make a full recovery, please keep her and Johnny in your thoughts and prayers.

Condolences

Our sympathy goes out to Joan Moratto’s family. Joan passed away August 12. She worked in the Bay Area Office and was a civil engineering technician. She will be missed by many.

Please keep John Gaskin, general engineering, in your thoughts and prayers. His father passed away August 29. They will be traveling to Maryland for the services.

Luel Tresmer Watkins,78, of Texas City passed away Sept. 2, 2003, at Gulf Health Care Center in Texas City. Mr. Watkins was a retired civil engineer for U. S. Corp of Engineers, Texas Department of Transportationand a veteran of WW II in the U. S. Army.

ED continued from page 6 . . requirements apply.

Two methods used for ED that have occurred in the Galveston District are with silt wings or a large bar.

The silt wing shoots large volumes of water at a low pressure through a nozzle 2-3 feet above the floor of the channel at the shoal site.

“This suspends the material above the mud line so the tides and currents can carry the material to a lower lying area,” said Frank Garcia, navigation branch, “The water from the silt wing does not push the material itself, it just raises it to allow the channel to move it.”

The bar is used to smooth out the tops of shoals. A plow type mechanism in front of the bar guides it as it drags that material to a lower spot.

These areas in need of ED are usually not large enough projects to economically bring in a large dredge operation.

These innovative, but temporary solutions last until the project area justifies the need for a large dredge.